

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-40. (cancelled)

41. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a metalloproteinase having at least about ~~77~~ 95% identity with the complete amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13.

42. (currently amended) A recombinant vector comprising ~~an~~ the isolated nucleotide sequence of claim 41.

43. (currently amended) A recombinant host cell ~~capable of expressing a metalloproteinase, polypeptide or part thereof~~ comprising the vector of claim 42.

44-46. (cancelled)

47. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12.

48. (currently amended) A recombinant vector comprising ~~an~~ the isolated nucleotide sequence of claim 47.

DESGROSEILLERS et al

Appl. No. 09/913,329

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49. (currently amended) A recombinant host cell ~~capable of expressing a metalloproteinase polypeptide or part thereof~~ comprising the vector of claim 48.

50-61. (cancelled)